

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 211541Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7102

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4073

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CY

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS VOICES CONCERN OVER CYPRUS

REF: MOSCOW 3982

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA (MARCH 21) AND NEW TIMES (MARCH 22) STEP UP PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS. CHARGING GREEK AND NATO SUPPORT FOR RENEWED TERRORIST THREAT TO MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT, ARTICLES REITERATE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT CYPRUS. CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR TELLS ME SOVIETS HAVE NOT EXPRESSED CONCERN TO HIM. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA ARTICLE BY N. BRAGIN SAYS CYPRUS HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO TENSE SITUATION BY RENEWED THREAT OF TERRORISM. AS REASON FOR PRESENT SITUATION HE NOTES REPORTS THAT A GREEK COLONEL HAS RECENTLY TAKEN OVER AS HEAD OF THE TERRORIST UNDERGROUND
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AND THAT THERE ARE CONTINUED ILLEGAL ARMS SHIPMENTS INTO THE

ISLAND. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND BRAGIN PROVIDES LENGTHY REHASH OF CHARGES THAT GREEK AND NATO MILITARISTS ARE BEHIND THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT WITH AIM OF OVERTHROWING THE MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT. BRAGIN CONCLUDES WITH STANDARD STATEMENT OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR CYPRIOT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ISLAND'S PROBLEMS.

3. NEW TIMES ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS ILLEGAL ARMS SHIPMENTS AND ARRIVAL OF COLONEL DERTILIS TO HEAD UNDERGROUND. ARTICLE SAYS "PROGRESSIVE" CYPRIOT PRESS BELIEVES RENEWED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE TERRORIST OVERTHROW OF MAKARIOS ARE AIMED AT ESTABLISHMENT OF A FASCIST DICTATORSHIP, PARTITION OF THE ISLAND AND ITS INCLUSION IN THE NATO ORBIT. IN DIRECT REFERENCE TO U.S., ARTICLE REPORTS STATEMENT BY PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY 11-(3) GENERAL SECRETARY TO EFFECT THAT IMPERIALIST CIRCLES "ACTION IN PARTICULAR THROUGH THE CIA" ARE NURTURING THE PLOT TO OVERTHROW MAKARIOS.

4. COMMENT: PRAVDA AND NEW TIMES ARTICLES MARK INCREASE IN SOVIET PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS. IN MY COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR HADJIMILTIS MARCH 21, HE SAID SOVIETS HAVE NOT APPROACHED HIM ABOUT CYPRUS ALTHOUGH THEY APPEAR NERVOUS. FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH AMBASSADOR HIMSELF TOOK SERIOUS VIEW OF SITUATION. HE SAID THERE IS A PROBLEM ON THE ISLAND AND A DANGER OF STRIFE OR CIVIL WAR. STOESEL

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